KV FOCUS

FALL SEMESTER
STARTS SEPTEMBER 4

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A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
June 2018

KalamazooVALLEY community college

A QUALITY EDUCATION
DOESN'T NEED TO BE EXPENSIVE

The draw of community colleges was the subject of a recent New York Times article. Published in the Sunday, April 8, Time's Higher Education section, the article included a quote from Sara Goldrick-Rab, professor of higher education policy and sociology at Temple University in Philadelphia who said, "More middle-class parents are saying, I'm not succumbing to the idea that the only acceptable education is an expensive one."

This might be a news flash for some, but for the thousands of students and their parents who make Kalamazoo Valley their first choice for a college education, the story serves as positive reinforcement for the good decision to choose Kalamazoo Valley.

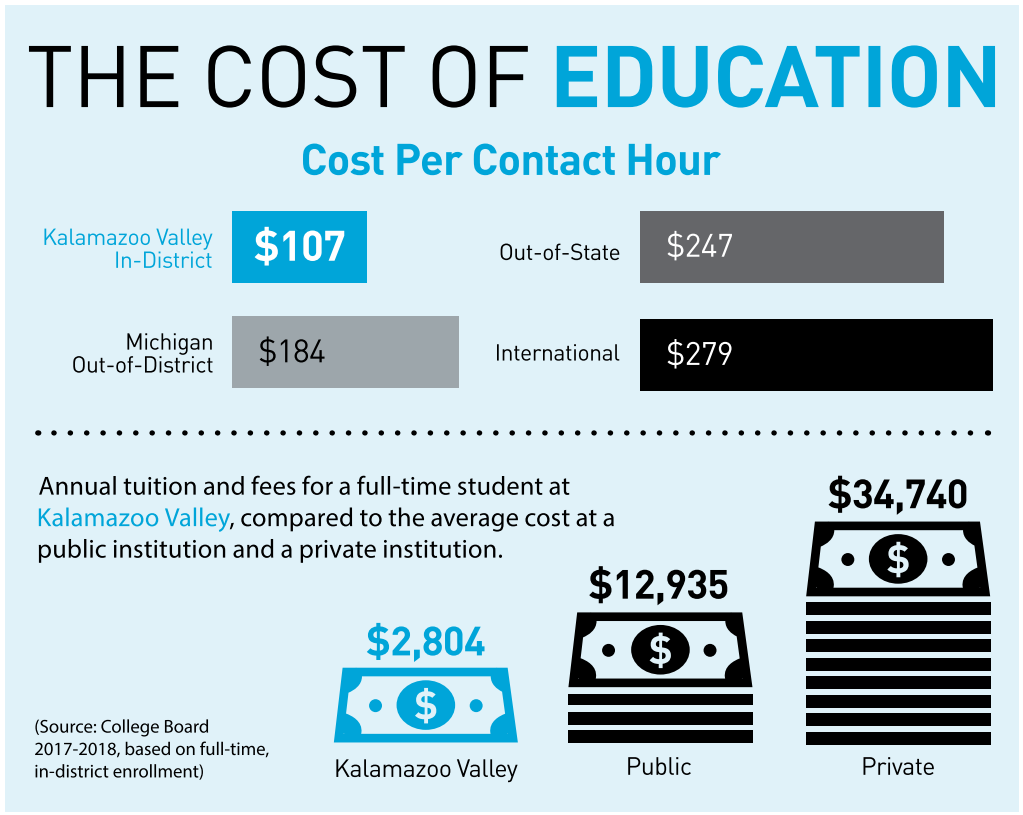
"Saving money and educational quality are clear priorities for students and their families," according to Director of Enrollment Management E. J. Bast. "Parents today are equally concerned about the content and cost of education and Valley fulfills the requirement on both counts."

Students often comment that the college's faculty members deliver high quality instruction at affordable rates. Recent Loy Norrix High School graduate Nicholas Martin was the first person in his family to go to college and is now working on his Ph.D. at the University of Florida. He credits his experience at Kalamazoo Valley with helping him achieve educational success. "Initially, I lacked direction, resources, and at times felt lost," he recalled. "Fortunately, I found my path at Kalamazoo Valley with the help of some truly amazing instructors."

"It's not an either or proposition, choosing between Kalamazoo Valley and a four-year institution," Bast said. "There's plenty of time for students to participate in a four-year college experience after completing a two-year degree and transferring from Valley to another college or university. Parents and students who are paying tuition, books, and room and board bills need and want to know that an investment at Valley helps to hold total educational costs in check."

Kalamazoo Valley alumna Taylor Lawrence said that Valley was the perfect way to start her college studies. "My two years at Kalamazoo Valley were absolutely amazing," she said. "They helped me prepare myself academically, socially, and professionally to take on a four-year university." Lawrence transferred to Western Michigan University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in marketing and communications in 2015. "Starting and saving money at Valley was a smart choice for me," she said.

There is still time to apply and register for fall classes.



"Students deciding on a college will find that Kalamazoo Valley is very welcoming," said Director of Admissions, Registration and Records Sarah Hubbell. "New students should apply to the college by completing an online application at www.kvcc.edu/apply. There are no application fees and the college accepts applicants throughout the summer months."

Fall semester begins on Tuesday, September 5. New students attending college for the first time are welcome to apply to the college this summer and must be registered at least one week prior to August 28.

LEARN ABOUT AND TASTE
THE FRESHNESS OF OUR LOCAL PRODUCE

Blackberry juice

Radish salad

Pesto spread

Farmers' market

Kalamazoo Valley staff members Lizzie Luchsinger and Hristina Petrovska will be among local chefs and food educators presenting cooking demonstrations at area farmers' markets this summer.

Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m., cooking demonstrations featuring locally grown produce purchased at the market that morning will be staged in the middle of the Bank Street Farmers' Market. Shoppers are invited to stop by to learn more about area farmers, how to use seasonal produce, and to ask the experts questions. There will be plenty of free samples, too.

Luchsinger, a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, serves as Kalamazoo Valley's program coordinator for community culinary and nutrition. Petrovska, a native of Macedonia, has hosted a popular hands-on cooking, music, dance, and visual presentation. She recently became food systems coordinator at Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center.

"We're so excited about cooking at the Farmers' Market," Luchsinger said, "Market to table moments provide the perfect platform to utilize incredible local produce, and, introduce community members to fun ways to prepare it."

Join them at the Bank Street Market on June 16, July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, and Oct. 27. "Our colleagues from Bronson Methodist Hospital will also be conducting demos," Luchsinger said. "Jason McClellan from Bronson will be at Bank Street on June 30, Aug. 18, Sept. 29, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.

For each session, the cooks will arrive at 9:45 a.m. to shop for ingredients and prepare. Cooking demos start at 10:30 a.m. There is a $60 budget for each demonstration and each week will feature a different type of produce.

"We'll explore new flavors through simple yet exciting recipes," Petrovska said. Free food samples and recipe cards will be provided.

The pair also plan demonstrations at the Tuesday night market in Texas Township.

"Come celebrate the abundance of fresh and locally grown produce Southwest Michigan has to offer," said Petrovska.

MOMENTUM PROGRAM
HELPS PARTICIPANTS PERSEVERE

Alejandro Rodriguez Momentum graduate

Alejandro Rodriguez of Kalamazoo went from having no job prospects to choosing between multiple job offers. The Kalamazoo resident was one of 13 graduates from the first Momentum Warehouse Management and Inventory Control training academy. The program is coordinated through a partnership between Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University and Urban Alliance's Momentum Urban Employment Initiative. Training takes place at the Urban Alliance Technical Center in Parchment.

The Momentum Urban Employment Initiative is meant to address workforce development in urban areas. During the program participants complete a six-week workforce readiness training which includes 100 hours of classroom instruction as well as 100 hours of volunteer work experience.

Once participants have completed the program, they have the opportunity to attend an academy, offered in partnership with Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The academies offer advanced technical training, in such areas as CNC Operation, Production Technician Training and Culinary and Sustainable Food Systems. The Warehouse Management and Inventory Control is the newest academy and the first offered in partnership with Western Michigan University. The second warehouse academy held its graduation ceremony in April. The third class is currently underway.

During each academy, a team of volunteers help coach participants to complete a nine-week workforce readiness training placement program, six weeks with Momentum and three additional weeks of skills-based training in the academy, totaling 200 hours of in-class instruction and 100 hours of volunteer work experience. Once participants have completed the program, they are matched with a community-minded employer who incorporates the participants' interests and competencies. Graduates are placed into good paying jobs from a network of more than 50 local employers.

Rodriguez, 24, grew up in Mexico and is a former gang member who said his life has changed dramatically due to his newly acquired skills. "Some of the many skills that I developed while in Momentum are some skills I already had, I just didn't quite know how to use them. Soft and hard skills, leadership skills, communication, professional body language development, proactive problem-solving, excellent listening skills, dependability, prioritizing, and time management are just a few of the many things we learned at Momentum," Rodriguez said. "Thanks to Momentum I'm actually working at a job where I can save money after paying bills and take care of my daughter. I make enough money to be able to learn more about being financially stable. My life has progressed in so many amazing ways after completing Momentum."

Rodriguez said his perspective began to change even before he started his job at Getman Corporation. "I noticed many changes while I was going through Momentum," he said. "I was becoming valuable, I was starting to learn things and grow in areas of my life that made me valuable, not saying I wasn't valuable before Momentum. But by this I mean, that we were learning things that made employers want to meet us and want to hire us. I started working at an awesome, full-time job on January 30, and I still have people calling me wanting to schedule interviews and offering me other positions at their companies. Before Momentum I would never have had this happen."

Rodriguez said he wants to help others succeed and is happy to share his story. "I am full of joy every day, even on the bad days," he said. "I adore helping others, and I want to show everyone what they can and will achieve while going through Momentum."

Candidates for Momentum participation include people who are welfare-dependent, single mothers reentering the workforce, people with disabilities, young people looking for their first opportunity, previously incarcerated individuals, and people in career transition. The program provides job and life skill training to secure and maintain new employment by helping participants build self-sufficiency and overcome obstacles to gainful employment.

About 40 percent of those who enrolled in the past year were homeless, 88 percent were ex-offenders and 79 percent came from generational poverty. Urban Alliance's Momentum Urban Employment Initiative has proven to be extremely successful for participants. A total of 84 percent of those enrolled in the program successfully graduated and 94 percent were successfully placed into employment with an average starting wage of $13 per hour. Graduates also maintain an 86 percent success rate from employment retention beyond 90 days, according to Brian Parsons, Director of Momentum Urban Employment Initiative.

Kalamazoo Valley's Director of Career and Continuing Education Elizabeth Bernhard said the program is truly life-changing. "It's been amazing to witness the academy students working together as a team, maturing and blossoming," she said.

For more information about the collaboration, contact Bernhard at 269.353.1289 or email abernhard@kvcc.edu.

2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Grace Baysinger

Grace Baysinger, the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Librarian at Stanford University, is receiving Kalamazoo Valley's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. She earned an associate of science degree from Kalamazoo Valley, a Bachelor of Science degree in botany from University of Michigan, and a Master of Arts degree in library science from U of M.

Baysinger has won a number of awards during her career, including being named an ACS Fellow by the American Chemical Society in 2017; receiving a Wiggins-Roth Award from the SLA Chemistry Division in 2011; and receiving a Meritorious Service Award from the American Chemical Society's Chemical Information Division in 2004.

Kalamazoo Valley's Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to a graduate of distinction who has used his or her education toward personal achievement and contribution to the betterment of the community. The award recipient is recognized each spring at the Opportunities for Education Dinner, which is the main scholarship fundraising event for the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation.

"Ms. Baysinger has worked in libraries since 1979," said Kalamazoo Valley's Alumni Coordinator Denise Thomas. "In addition to her work as a subject specialist, her current endeavors include preserving, digitizing, and improving search processes for the chemistry, engineering, and physics collections. Grace's education, professional achievements, professional activities, and recognition by her peers in the chemical engineering and library fields made her a logical choice for the award."

Baysinger is the subject specialist for students, faculty, and staff who need help using chemistry and chemical engineering resources. She is the primary liaison for the chemistry and chemical engineering departments at Stanford.

"My responsibilities include developing and managing chemistry and chemical engineering collections and providing reference help and library instruction," Baysinger explained. "Behind the scenes, I collaborate and cooperate closely with staff at other Stanford Libraries to deliver services and build library collections. I also contribute to library-wide activities such as playing a lead role for xSearch, a search service that allows users to search multiple resources at one time, and support for publication feeds in Stanford Profiles."

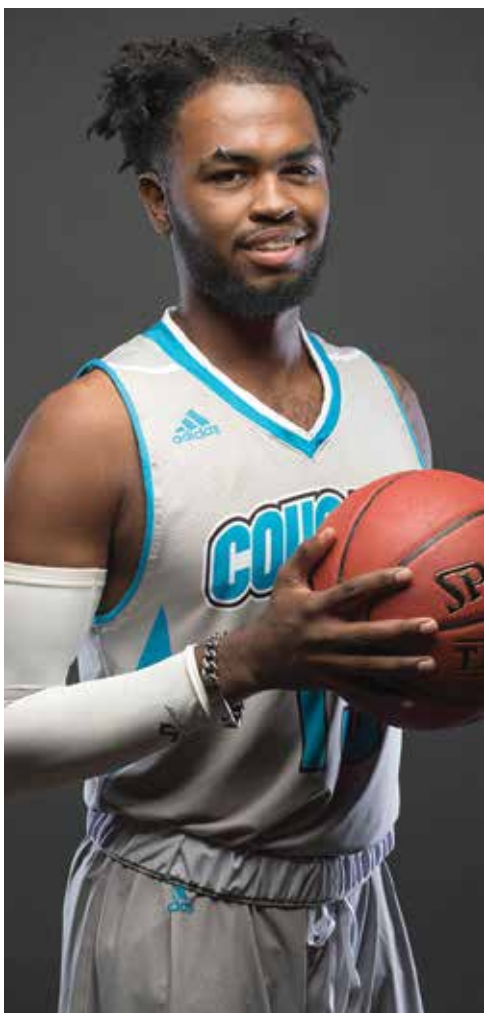
Community colleges provide an important, vital niche in the education system.

Baysinger said her experiences in the Kalamazoo Valley Libraries and in the biology lab set the stage for her career as a science librarian. "After earning an undergraduate degree in botany, I worked in the Natural Sciences Library at U of M and decided to pursue a master's in Library Science. After graduating, I continued working as a science librarian and then accepted a position as a chemistry librarian, first at U of M and later at Stanford. As an alternative career path, people who have information specialist skills and an academic background in science still remain in short supply. Being a chemistry librarian has been interesting and challenging but also has been a lot of fun. I particularly enjoy working closely with students, faculty, and staff."

Thomas said Baysinger's accomplishments are many, noteworthy and on-going. "Previously the head librarian and bibliographer at the Swain Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Library, Grace was tapped as the chemical engineering subject specialist when three Stanford Libraries merged in December 2016 to create the Robin Li and Melissa Ma Science Library," Thomas said.

Baysinger said she was honored to receive the award. "It was a wonderful surprise to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award," she said. "I am extremely grateful for this recognition because I value my Kalamazoo Valley experience so highly. Community colleges provide an important, vital niche in the education system. This award has been an opportunity for me to reflect on the early part of my college career and to treasure the role Kalamazoo Valley played in helping me grow professionally and personally."

KALAMAZOO VALLEY ANNOUNCES
DALE B.LAKE AWARD WINNERS



Tre Humes

A men's basketball team two-year captain with a 3.8 grade point average and multiple offers to continue his basketball career at the university level along with a right-handed shortstop on the softball team with a 4.0 grade point average were recently named Kalamazoo Valley Community College Dale B. Lake Award winners.

Ralph Humes III (Tre), a 6'5 forward and two-time academic all-American on the men's basketball team and Emma Nuyen, who currently leads the softball team in stolen bases, average, on base percentage, and slugging percentage, received the annual award.

"Tre is a great ambassador for the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Athletic Program," said Men's Basketball Head Coach Jim Horn. "He is a young man who is focused on and off the court, with a goal of getting a degree in finance with an emphasis in banking. There is no doubt in my mind he will go on to a four-year school to play basketball, finish his degree, and have a career in finance. He is well liked by his teammates and coaches, and was a leader by example with an excellent work ethic on the court and in the classroom."

Humes, who was selected as the student speaker at the college's 81st commencement ceremony last month, is currently deciding between several schools, including Kalamazoo College and Goshen College, to continue both his education and basketball career in the fall.

Head Softball Coach Morgan VanderBor nominated Emily (Emma) Nuyen to receive the 48-year-old award given annually to one outstanding male and one outstanding female student-athlete.

"Emma is one of those people who will consistently put effort into everything she does, even if it's more than what is expected of her," VanderBor said. "She has proven to be a valuable leader for the team. Many of the girls not only look up to her as a crucial part of this team, but they also reach out to her when they struggle in classes. Emma has been able to improve grades of others by helping teammates during study tables on multiple occasions, even though she has plenty of work to do herself."

Nuyen was 22nd in the nation last season for doubles and triples. She continues to lead the team in both again this year. The Otsego native graduated last month with an associate degree in business administration. She will continue her studies at Western Michigan University this fall.

The Dale B. Lake Award began in 1970 in honor of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's founding president. It is an effort to give annual recognition to one outstanding male and one outstanding female student-athlete.

Special consideration is given to exceptional academic achievement as well as outstanding athletic contribution. Qualities such as leadership, loyalty, enthusiasm, reliability, and initiative are also evaluated. Each coach may nominate one individual to the athletic director for consideration for the award. The athletic director then selects one male and one female award winner. Winners receive plaques and their names are added to the Dale B. Lake plaque displayed within the Coaches Office at Kalamazoo Valley.

Emma Nuyen

STUDENTS CAN GROW YEAR ROUND CROPS
WITH A HOOP HOUSE

Hoop house at the Food Innovation Center

A hoop house has been installed on the south lawn at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Food Innovation Center at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway. Food Innovation Center Director Rachel Bair explained that a hoop house is a simple, passive solar greenhouse constructed of steel bows that are set into posts in the ground with translucent plastic stretched over the top.

"A hoop house traps solar energy so that the air and ground inside stay warm enough to grow certain crops throughout the year," Bair said. The FIC's hoop house is 30 by 72-feet and was installed by Nifty Hoops, a Michigan-based company.

Students enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley's sustainable food system program, culinary arts and sustainable brewing programs will all use the hoop house. As part of their coursework, students learn to grow food in different environments, including an indoor grow room, a greenhouse, and raised bed gardens.

"It will provide an additional educational space and help us produce more food to be used on the menu at the 418 Restaurant and Havirmill Café," Bair said. Kalamazoo Valley may also offer farmer workshops and community classes in the hoop house.

CONGRATULATIONS
LADY COUGARS

The Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) Western Conference recently recognized the following members of the Kalamazoo Valley softball team for play during the 2018 season.

Coach of the Year:
Morgan VanderBor
Co-Players of the Year:
Emma Nuyen and Rachel Pijaszek
Freshman of the Year:
Rachel Pijaszek

All-Region, All-MCCAA Team
Emma Nuyen
Rachel Pijaszek
Dylan King

First Team All-Conference
Emma Nuyen
Rachel Pijaszek
Dylan King
Ally Sinclair

Honorable All-Conference
Amber Mazaham
Adaisha Heidtman
Nicolle Larson
Jordyn Geik
Maddie Bell

All-Freshman Team
Rachel Pijaszek

GENERATIONS AT WORK
HOW TO THRIVE IN A MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORKPLACE

Across the country and across industries, more generations than ever before are working together.

In office buildings and factories, it is not uncommon to find a Tradionalist (born between 1925-1946) working alongside a Generation Xer (born between 1965-1980) and a Generation Zer (born after 1998) while being supervised by a Baby Boomer (born between 1946-1964). Likewise, in Fortune 500 companies and small nonprofits, you can easily find a Millennial (born between 1980-1998) leading older team members.

Each group of employees has its own distinct characteristics, work ethic and attitude toward authority, based on its generation's life experiences, according to Tracey Quada, Kalamazoo Valley Community College's student employment relations liaison and a recognized expert on the topic of working with various generations in the workplace.

"For the first time in history, we have five different generations in the workforce," Quada said. "To be successful and retain employees, companies need to start dispelling myths about these generations and acknowledge and leverage the positive attributes of each."

This summer, Quada will lead a new workshop, Generations at Work, through Kalamazoo Valley's corporate training department. The workshop, which is open to the public, will be held August 3 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Groves Center, 7107 Elm Valley Drive. It costs $175 and includes training materials and food service.

In the seminar, participants will learn how to effectively work with each generation represented in the workplace. Quada will look at the assets and liabilities of each generation and provide specific tips for supervising and working with different generations.

According to Kate Miller, corporate training manager for Kalamazoo Valley, many area employers have realized how important it is to adapt their cultures and policies to cater to different age segments of our community.

"Work-life balance means so many different things to different people, understanding what each generation is looking for is a good starting point for employers and managers interested in keeping their teams happy," Miller said. "From a diversity and inclusion standpoint, multi-generational workforces are bringing both new challenges and opportunities. This workshop equips leaders with tools to support these dynamic groups."

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize stereotypes and actualities about the different generations in the workplace
- Understand the unique strengths and weaknesses of each generation
- Discuss case studies of cross generational work situations
- Apply supervising strategies for each generation by each generation
- Determine if their workplace is cross generationally friendly

"This workshop is another tool in your toolbox," Quada added. "It won't fix all of the problems in the workforce, but it will give you the language and tactics needed to make noticeable changes. It takes time, effort and commitment from the top down to be a generationally friendly workforce."

For more information, contact Miller at kmiller1@kvcc.edu. To register visit www.kvcc.edu/trainingschedule.

CONGRATULATIONS
2018 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kalamazoo Valley's 2018 Merit Scholarships have been awarded to 50 high school seniors from eight local counties. The Merit Scholarships are for top performing Michigan high school scholars and funds are to be used during their first two years at Kalamazoo Valley. Eligible applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, a minimum ACT composite score of 21 or a minimum new SAT composite score of 1060. Scholarship recipients are awarded a $3,000 scholarship for their freshman year and can receive an additional award of $3,000 for their sophomore year, if certain criteria are met.

Dylan Androsky, Three Rivers High School
Hnin-Thiri Aung, Portage Central High School
James Benedict, Portage Central High School
William Boddy, Otsego High School
McKenzie Borst, Three Rivers High School
Madeline Brennan, Portage Northern High School
Erin Campbell, Plainwell High School
Kirsten Cassada, Lawton High School
Carlie Doubblestien, Otsego High School
Zackary Dumas, Portage Northern High School
Abigail Eastman, Hackett Catholic Prep
Joshua Gibson, Heritage Christian High School
Madeline Goodwill, Mattawan High School
Sydney Griffith, Mendon High School
Kendyl Hendrick, Portage Northern High School
Cassandra Herman, Sturgis High School
Jocelyn Holstege, Covenant Christian High School
Erica Holter, Paw Paw High School
Emily Johnson, Comstock High School
Emma Kite, Portage Central High School
Analise Kloosterman, Hudsonville High School
Abbylynne Kroetsch, Schoolcraft High School
Samuel Lasher, Parchment High School
Grace Meacham, Montague High School
Grace Metheany, Portage Central High School
Morgan Mitchell, Portage Central High School
Anna Morgan, Gull Lake High School
Caitlin Pung, Portage Central High School
Samantha Putman, Gull Lake High School
Beth Redder, Gull Lake High School
Tessa Rice, Lawrence High School
Sarah Ross, Portage Northern High School
Ariana Rowe, Watervliet High School
Joshua Sapp, Hopkins High School
Katelyn Scanlon, Portage Central High School
Kristen Schneidenbach, Portage Central High School
Giselly Silva, Bloomingdale High School
Elijah Simpson, Heritage Christian High School
Parker St. Clair, Vicksburg High School
Michelle Starbuck, Homeschool
Quinlyn Stephan, Portage Central High School
Brianna Stokes, Holland High School
Shelby Sukich, Schoolcraft High School
Brandon Thompson, Gull Lake High School
Andrew Tironi, Mattawan High School
Carly Todd, Centreville High School
Rebekah VanBregge, Plymouth Christian High School
Morgan Walton, Centreville High School
Teara Webb, White Pigeon High School
Kayla Yore, Coloma High School

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